

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 33-40, 43-64 and 66-79 are presently active, Claims 1-32 have been previously canceled without prejudice, Claims 41-42 and 65 are canceled without prejudice by the present amendment, and Claims 33-40, 43-64 and 66-79 are amended. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 34-79 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 33-52, 54-57, 60-61, 63-72, 74-76 and 78 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 33-40, 54, 58-59 and 74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Kaplan (U.S. Pat. No. 6,331,163). Claims 41-53, 55-57, 60-73 and 75-79 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Firstly, Applicant notes that the abstract of the disclosure was amended by the preliminary amendment dated February 14, 2005 and is in proper format.

Regarding the objection to the claims, the claims are amended to address the informalities. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the claims has been overcome.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection of Claims 33-52, 54-57, 60-61, 63-72, 74-76 and 78, Claims 33-40, 43-52, 54-57, 60-61, 63-64, 66-72, 74-76 and 78 are amended to clarify the claimed subject matters. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection is overcome.


Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 41-53, 55-57, 60-73 and 75-79. In order to expedite prosecution of the present

application, independent Claim 33 is rewritten to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 41. Further, Claims 55 and 63 are rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 33, 55 and 63 and the claims dependent therefrom patentably define over the applied prior art.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, it is believed that the outstanding rejection has been overcome, and the application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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